The Manhattan Projects

For the real heroes

A Borderline special

http://borderline.mediahall.co.uk

09-11-2001

THERE has been much said of the events that shook the world on September 11, 2001. Perhaps the most succinct comment from the comics industry came from Brazilian artist Mike Deodato, Jr., who released our cover image showing his feelings toward the tragedy. Together with the drawing, he and David Campiti of Glass House Graphics released the following statement:

"In this highly-insular comic book world in which we live and work, we sometimes forget that in the horrific fantasies we create - Galactus coming to Earth, the Skrulls invading, Dr. Doom taking total control of the Baxter Building - characters rarely die. The tragedies that do occur are overshadowed by sound and fury and bombast as heroic figures fight the battle for truth, justice, and (often) the American Way. And, of course, the chronicled events are merely born of imagination and ink and paper.

"This month, the terrorist attack on America brings foremost to our minds how real the horror can be - how easily the stuff of comic books and action movies becomes life, how thousands of innocent human beings can die in a matter of moments even in the boldest, safest, most respected nation in the world.

"Where were the super-heroes when the human tragedy struck? Not just in the comic books; they were right there on the spot, decked out in their colorful heroic uniforms. They were and are the firefighters, and police, and rescue teams who put themselves through risk and pain and death to rescue everyone they could. Weary and frightened themselves, they continue their efforts right now. So, too, do the FBI, CIA, the doctors and nurses. They are all the real heroes.

"Those of us who care, we do what we can. Some give blood; some make donations; some contribute to causes (such as a tribute comic book to raise money). We know it's not enough - nothing could be enough - but we must start somewhere.

"This, then, is our tribute to the real heroes - and to those both brave and innocent who did not survive."

A cry for Unity

THIS special has been assembled to help emphasise the number of tribute books and projects currently being undertaken. We want to help maximise the amount of coverage these get.

However, from an editorial standpoint, we'd like to point you to Logan Lubera's very poignant post to the SuperHero News e-mail group: "As a person whose family was struck directly by the attack I wanted to say a few words on behalf of my wife and I - her uncle passed on September 11.

He said: "I have seen four different tribute book ideas and all of them are great ideas. I am worried though that if too many come out, the effect might be lost or seen by the outside as an attempt to gather press. I know no one would think that way and that this entire family of artists have only great intentions.

He appealed: "If you are one of the people building a tribute book, please contact the others. Get together, make one giant tome or collection. Really make this project a force of interest and power. Art and storytelling has and will always be a source of healing and a way to bring us all even closer.

"To the powerhouses out there – Quesada, Adams, Lee, Bendis, Larsen, Valentino and Shamus, plus all the others that we all look up to with pride and admiration – please help. Your support is crucial and it will really help in getting those books out there. Then the aid will be even greater."

This **Borderline** special edition was written and compiled by Mike Conroy and Mike Sivier and produced and edited by Mike Kidson and Phil Hall.

This is a free PDF magazine. We have not produced this to make money, but we urge all who read it to donate at least a small amount of money to one of the related causes.

For those who died and those that fought when all was lost.

The day the world changed!

First hand accounts from comics industry people about of the experiences of September 11

IT SEEMED like any other Tuesday afternoon, here in Britain. At 2pm - 9am in New York - I was sitting with friends in my living room, and one of them suggested watching *X-Men* on DVD. Thinking this was a good idea, I got up and switched on the television - and a passenger jet crashed into the World Trade Centre before my eyes.

The events of the next few hours riveted both me and my friends to our seats. Forget *X-Men*, this was real! And it was happening before our eyes. We watched as the second jet hit the other tower. We watched the devastation of the Pentagon, and we watched the towers fall.

We were horrified. But we were lucky. We *weren't* there.

But a horde of comics professionals were. This is their story.

Andrew Lis, an assistant editor at Marvel, was late for work that day. He and his wife share a house with two friends, one of whom was hogging the bathroom. As a result, it took longer for him to get to work.

He told **Borderline**: "Usually, I leave the house around 8:15 / 8:30 and catch the Staten Island Ferry to Lower Manhattan. The ride takes 25 minutes, and the remaining commute to the Marvel office takes another 30 minutes. This morning, I would leave the house at 9:00. As I was finishing breakfast, we heard a loud noise, and our windows started to shake.

"It passed, and my wife and I figured the noise was a fire or an explosion down by the Ferry terminal, which is 15 minutes away.

"I kissed her goodbye and walked down the street. As I reached the corner, I saw large plumes of smoke billowing up from the twin towers. I paused, and two commuters walking in the opposite direction stopped to say, 'Going to the ferry? Don't bother — it's closed because of the planes.'

"'Planes?', I thought, taking a few steps down the hill to the terminal.

"As I passed a few trees, I could see the whole of the towers clearly. It took a few seconds to register, but I suddenly realized what was happening. I paused again, turned and headed home to find my wife and hold her. There were suddenly far more important things than stopping at the mailbox on the way to work."

Andrew's neighbour has a verandah on her third floor. With an unobstructed view, he, his wife and his neighbour stood and watched the buildings burn and, ultimately, collapse.

He said: "Whatever you've seen on TV does not compare to the actual moment. The only way I can possibly describe the impossibly long minutes is that I had goosebumps the whole time.

"From that moment on, I knew the world was different - things had changed forever. And if I had any doubts about how drastically things had changed, the mushroom cloud rolling out over the water would clarify my feelings."

As far as Andrew Lis was concerned, Tuesday September 11 - as a normal working day - was over. He explained: "As the dust settled, we three spent the rest of the day working to help refugees from Manhattan. We did what we could, though I barely feel comfortable talking about the rest of the day because attempts to talk about anything but 5,000 dead innocents feel sensational and false.

"Suffice it to say, there were a lot of heroes that day, and I hope whatever small contribution we were able to make reflects well on the people who gave everything they could.

"I frankly don't have much in my heart about Tuesday, September 11 except sadness."

Mike Carlin, an editor at DC Comics, was also on his way into Manhattan that day. His sister had started work in a building attached to the World Trade Centre just a week earlier.

He told us: "I was taking the train into Manhattan over the Manhattan Bridge from Brooklyn. When the train came out of the tunnel onto the bridge everyone on the train could already see the first tower burning on the NY skyline.

"The conductor made an announcement that anyone intending to go to the World Trade Centre area was asked *not* to go there, as a plane had hit one of the towers.

"My immediate thought... and others' on the train as well... was that it seemed a small plane might have hit the tower (pilot out of control or heart attacked...) and that it was a terrible accident.

"Then, as we watched, the second airliner swooped in and hit the second tower. Without sounding like I've been desensitized to seeing explosions and larger than life incidents like this... it really was like watching a movie. In fact, the train's

window provided a widescreen effect for the biggest *Die Hard* explosion I ever hope to see.

"Everyone gasped loudly— and I've never heard the phrase 'Holy Shit' said more often and with more meaning!"

He continued: "Within a split second it was clear to me and everyone that this wasn't a movie... and that there were *real* people involved in this - *and* that this was way more than a coincidence.

"The rest of the ride into Manhattan was surreal, to say the least. People crying... being scared... and even theorizing out loud.

"I made it to my station at 14th Street and then to my shrink (!) - perfect place to have been headed, it seems. When I got there I could tell she was unaware of what was going on... and I asked if I could use her phone.

"I called my mom. She had heard from my sister after the first plane hit... but now couldn't get through."

He said: "Again... it's good to be *at* your shrink's if you want to worry and cry about something you fear.

"While there... we heard a huge cry from the street and I said that I couldn't continue the meeting and needed to get to my office in case people needed me. What had happened was that the first tower had collapsed while I was blabbin' about my sister.

"Miraculously I hailed a cab... and since DC's offices are uptown I was going to be headed away from this lunacy. While in the cab, the second tower came down and I watched from the back window."

He told **Borderline**: "I didn't know what I was supposed to do... but simply felt I needed to be where people could get me... both my Mom and my co-workers.

"After an hour or two of worrying - I'm an expert - my Mom called and said that my sister, having been involved in the World Trade Centre bombing in '93, immediately left her job after the first plane hit and started walking back home to Brooklyn over the Brooklyn Bridge. So she was getting to safety while the cellphone service was unable to locate her. Whew!"

He said the rest of the day involved being at DC, figuring out ways to help people get home. "In the days that followed, all we could do was feel the loss of the thousands of fellow New Yorkers and marvel at the real heroism of the volunteers and firefighters and policemen.

"Oh, and to donate money and blood to relief services."

How did he feel about the tragedy now? "Just that the whole thing sucks. And that, despite major rage and anger, I'm proud that we haven't gone off half-cocked. Methodically some sort of justice will be served. But no matter what, innocent people will never be around to do the things we all take for granted... and *that* sucks."

Dean Haspiel, cartoonist on **Opposable Thumbs** and **Billy Dogma**, said: "What I witnessed from my Brooklyn windows and roof, and the flaming documents that came casually floating through

my window from the collapsing offices of the World Trade Centre across the river, and the ash of debris and smoke that snowed on my neighborhood, covering it with human detritus and soot, is the most devastating communal disaster experience of my life.

"I don't think I can ever forget the images of hijacked commercial airplanes crashing into the Twin Towers, and watching in horror as they crumbled to the NYC streets below with so many lives at stake. Harrowing. I learned fear."

Bill Rosemann, Marvel's Marketing Communications Manager, told CBR News about his return to work later that week - and passed his words on to **Borderline**. He said: "Honestly, I was scared.

"I sat on a train heading into the always-packed Grand Central Station, which in my mind would be a perfect target for another terrorist attack. The thought that went through my mind as I sat on my morning train was: 'Okay, if I hear or feel a bomb go off, what will I do?'

"Everyone was very quiet and polite on the train. See, we were all reading papers and learning about the heroic acts of the police department, firemen, EMS workers, and ordinary citizens.

"Some of my fellow passengers were even moved to tears over what we read. See, while others may see us as tough New Yorkers, we're all just people trying to help each other through this nightmare. I imagine everyone else was scared like me as they headed into what is, when you think about it, a war zone.

"But in my heart - and I would imagine in the hearts of others - was the feeling that we would not let those cowards defeat us. We would not let them beat us down and steal our lives from us. We would rebuild. We would move on."

He said: "While we realize now is time to think about and pray for those that have perished, it is also time to carry on with our lives... to show those evil forces that we will prevail - even if that means simply by going on and performing our daily jobs. So we will gear back up and do what we do best: create comic books that entertain readers of all ages.

"If that means we help the economy continue, then great. If that means we can offer entertainment and escape for children of all ages - and maybe even those in the police, fire department or armed forces, then even better. We will proceed with caution and with humanity, but we will proceed."

He added: "While Joe Quesada and Bill Jemas will make the hard calls concerning the progress of business, all of us here at Marvel are taking the words of our Mayor, Governor, and President to heart. So while we attempt to comfort our friends, co-workers, and family, Marvel is open for business, and if all we can do is create comic books and toys that entertain kids and take their minds off the tragedy, then that's what we'll do.

"While our daily jobs - be they editorial, production, manufacturing, legal, new media or accounting - may seem trivial in the big scheme of things, we must carry on to show the world that we will not bow to the inhumane acts of others.

"We must rebuild. We must return to our lives. We must utilize the freedom that others have - and continue to - died for."

Patty Jeres of DC Comics said: "My neighborhood is right across the river from the WTC and I got a clear view of the second crash."

She said: "Like everyone who works and lives and around New York City, DC staffers are all quite shaken and are taking comfort in the good wishes of our friends and colleagues around the world.

"Fortunately, our offices are far enough from the World Trade Centre and are safe. Like many of you, we experienced excruciating worry about friends and family, and commutes home that were beyond challenging.

"Thanks to email access and our colleagues at WildStorm, Diamond, Quebecor, and our freelance community, we continue with the business of publishing comics.

"But most important, our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those missing, hurt and lost."

She added: "Life is nowhere near back to normal - whatever normal is going to be. Many New Yorkers are thinking of your parents and grandparents, wondering what resources they found within themselves during the Battle of Britain to go on with life as they did." *Mike Sivier*

We Looked Out Over The Manhattan Skyline

Veteran comics writer Don McGregor's poignant eyewitness account of September 11, 2001

LAST night, I stayed up late.

I was working with Rich Harvey on the covers for a possible magazine devoted to Grace Bradley Boyd telling her story, in her words, and the story of one of my favorite heroes, one who influenced me most, Hopalong Cassidy.

I have often said that Hoppy was like my second father.

I can no more imagine who I would be if Hoppy hadn't been in my life, or Robert Culp and Bill Cosby in *I Spy*, or if I hadn't read Evan Hunter/Ed McBain and the *87th Precinct*, who influenced me more than any other writer, or Stirling Silliphant, who taught me you could write with heart and care, week after week, on *Route 66*, or Ian Fleming, who made me aware that you had to keep it real. There are other personal heroes.

But last night was a different world, already into this day that would change our lives.

About 7 am I got up to e-mail Jerry Rosenthal one of the cover Mrs. Hopalong Cassidy mock-ups. I was excited about what Rich and I had done last night and I couldn't wait for him to see it. My son, Rob, came into the room some time after 9, and asked if I'd heard what had happened.

Happened?

"Two planes crashed into the World Trade Center!" he told me. His voice was quietly grim.

I got up, thinking, what the hell, and remembering the plane that crashed into the Empire State Building, just as they were opening it up in the 1930s.

I came into the room about in time to see flame erupt from the side of one of the Towers.

I looked at Rob. "Two planes? How the hell can two planes hit the towers?"

The immensity of what was happening had yet to hit me.

"Should I go into work, dad?" he asked. He's a physical fitness trainer. He works wonders for people. I should have him train me.

We can see the Trade Center from Marine Park, sticking up over the trees rimming the perimeter, miles distant. We can see it by leaning out our window.

I have never cared for the World Trade Center aesthetically. I've always preferred the Empire State Building. It speaks to me in ways the World Trade Center never could.

And yet, the World Trade Center always made me aware of something almost diametrically opposed to what it was supposed to represent.

Impermanence.

Almost every time I would see it, somehow it would say to me, this is not forever, this too will change. If Manhattan is an island of change, and it is, this building spoke to me most strongly of that change, not just the change in the way the city would look, but that it too would become something else as time passed. Like Rome, its time would pass.

I watched the World Trade Center crumple in on itself.

I watched the smoke mushroom out through the building.

It went straight down. Didn't totter. Didn't lean. Didn't crash into other buildings.

It went down into the rising debris.

110 stories into oblivion, but you had to give its makers credit, they'd made it so it wouldn't crash like some gigantic monolith into a domino devastation, hitting building after building.

In an instant, it was gone.

I looked at Rob. He went to the window. Leaned out to look toward Manhattan.

And where the World Trade Center had been, there was space.

The sky was a crisp blue in Brooklyn, out toward the outer edges where we were.

Rob and I went up onto our rooftop. You can look over all of Brooklyn. You can look at the City that you love and hate, hold dear and want to embrace, run for your life while there is still the time. The City is Manhattan. It is not Brooklyn. It is not the Bronx. It is not Queens. Manhattan is what the other boroughs call The City.

The blue was bleached from the sky, by the smoke.

The smoke smeared over Brooklyn.

Rob said he felt he could smell burned flesh in the smoke.

I had tears in my eyes for this building that had always spoken to me of impermanence.

I was right.

And I wished I'd been wrong.

To know a thing, intellectually, is one thing. To know it, emotionally, another.

Marsha was stuck in the city. There was concern the building she was in might be a target.

Rob wanted to get to her. He's 22. He wants to do it, and do it now.

I told him we had to have a plan, because I'm not 22 anymore. We'd never get into Manhattan, wouldn't get near it.

If we had to take any major thru-way, we were screwed.

The 59th Street bridge seemed the best bet. I can hear Paul Simon singing, "Slow down, you move too fast..."

Not today.

There are images on the T.V. of people by the thousands trudging over the bridge.

Lower Manhattan looks the way I recall photos of Dresden being.

Jim Salicrup calls to say Marsha can stay with Paulette.

Marsha hears the trains are running and she's going to get back into Brooklyn.

I'm waiting for her call.

Waiting for wherever she can get to on this side of the Hudson.

Waiting to go pick her up.

I love heroes.

I always have.

Jim once said to me, "You really believe what you write, don't you, Don?"

Yes.

I may not always live up to it, but yes.

We looked out over the Manhattan skyline this morning. It was changed.

The people who will mourn their loved ones, their lives have been changed. In their personal lives, forever. No impermanence in this. This will always be in the memory. This will always be the sharp stab in the heart when remembered.

To all of you, thanks for being here.

To all out there with loss unendurable, for the heroes in the thick of the debris and blood and pain, I wish I had the words to convey what I feel for all of you.

Don McGregor – New York

An eyewitness account

A SURREAL calm settled over the city as the chaos of Lower Manhattan continued unabated throughout the day. Live footage of an ash-covered Financial District ran in rotation on television, a video tour through an eerie apocalyptic landscape.

Most shops and banks had closed, the employees sent home. All bridges and tunnels were shut down. Trains, subway lines and public transport were suspended by mid-morning. No one was going in or out of the city during the day.

Cellular phone networks and long distance phone lines were down. You could not call out of the local area, but out-of-State and overseas callers could call in.

The air was punctuated by sirens from fire engines and Emergency Services vehicles rushing downtown to aid in rescue operations. I heard the roar of F-16 fighter jets as they patrolled overhead.

It has just been announced that 250 firefighters died today. 78 policemen are missing. My friend in Chinatown is cooking dinner for the firefighters at the station on her street tonight. They lost one of their own today. On the streets at 2pm, I could see people rushing to ATMs to withdraw money. The streets were emptied of traffic, apart from the police cars, ambulances and rescue trucks, and the occasional yellow taxicab with their "Off-duty" signs on.

By 3.30pm, cellular phone services resumed. They became the only instruments with which to call people outside the city.

By 6pm, hospitals closed their doors, turned back prospective blood donors, asked them to return in the morning.

On a normal day, you could look south, towards Downtown, here in the Village, and see the towers of the World Trade Center looming on the horizon. Today, there is an absence in its place, a lack, save for the billowing plumes of grey smoke billowing into the sky, the romance of the cityscape irreversibly altered forever.

Adi Tantimedh

WHILE other publishers race to get their tribute/benefit projects into the shops as quickly as possible, DC is still debating what format its comic should take.

As this special was going to press, a spokesman told ***The Manhattan Projects***, "We have something in development that looks likely to be co-published with several other comics companies. It's being developed along numerous lines at the same time – page count, format, talent, release date, packaging, price, solicitation method and more all being pondered simultaneously – so we don't have anything solid to tell you yet. Believe me, it is moving forward at great speed, and we will release info as soon as we can."

In the meantime, the New York-based publisher is rush-releasing a 22x34" *Superman Salutes America's Heroes* poster featuring a classic Golden Age illustration by Fred Ray *[see above]*. Originally intended for shops only, it is now being made available in larger quantities and at a nominal cost in the hope that retailers will use the poster as a fund raising aid.

The *Superman Salutes America's Heroes* poster ships as soon as possible after the October 12 order cutoff date.

Comics publishers and event organisers react with cancellations

WHILE the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington had no direct impact on comics publishers or creators, the atrocities did have some peripheral impact on the industry.

The most obvious effect was that shipments from Diamond Comics Distributors were delayed or partial for least two weeks, not just in the continental United States but worldwide.

Specific publications and events were affected as well.

Titles shelved: Of all the comics publishers, DC has been the most overt in its treatment of its material in the wake of the tragedy. Voicing concerns over the suitability of content, the New York-based publisher has cancelled **The Authority: Widescreen** one-shot [*cover below*] and two trade paperback collections: **Goddess** and **JSA: Darkness Falls**.

In addition, amidst rumours that it has cancelled the title, DC has pulled **The Authority #27** and **#28** from the schedules. While no reason was offered, these middle chapters in writer Mark Millar's interrupted final four-parter do feature the destruction of New York.

In Britain, Com.X has shelved its **Cla$$ War** series, also due to concerns about content.

Spider-Man movie: Also reacting to the events of September 11, Sony Entertainment has pulled its *Spider-Man* movie teaser trailer. This heavily featured the twin towers of the World Trade Centre.

Four events were also affected by the attacks: The Big Apple Con was set to be held in New York during the weekend of September 15-16. It has been pushed back to October 12-13.

Expo 2001 - the Small Press Expo – and ICAF, the International Comic Arts Festival, were cancelled. The annual gathering of independent publishers and the academic conference were due to run concurrently for four days from September 13 in Bethesda, Maryland, immediately adjacent to Washington DC.

Cancellation of the fourth event, the Baltimore, Maryland Diamond Retail Summit set to be held on September 22-23, led to acrimony between Marvel and DC - its main rival - with each company publicly castigating the other.

To replace that show, Marvel quickly organised a Retail Rally Presentation, held in New York on October 1. It was attended by representatives from a bevy of companies including Chaos!, Diamond, Dynamic Forces, Harris, Image and Wizard.

Both DC and Dark Horse declined to attend, with the former entering into a bitter war of words with Marvel, questioning not only whether it was appropriate to hold the event at that time but also the **Spider-Man** publisher's motives.

In the aftermath of the attacks

Benefit books are announced as America recovers from the attacks on the World Trade Centre, Washington's Pentagon and Philadelphia...

A NUMBER of comics publishers have announced special benefit books in aid of the Red Cross, firefighters and New York City policemen who acted – and in many cases, died – so heroically on September 11.

Furthest along is Marvel's 64-page , **Heroes**. Set to ship on October 17, the $3.50 one-shot is a pin-up book that includes contributions from Neal Adams, Kurt Busiek, Garth Ennis, J. Scott Campbell, John Cassaday, Alan Davis, Mike Deodato Jr., Steve Dillon, Evan Dorkin, Neil Gaiman, Jae Lee, Stan Lee, Frank Miller, Todd McFarlane, George Perez, Alex Ross, Steve Rude, Bill Sienkiewicz and Kevin Smith, among others.

"We called an impromptu meeting and it was swiftly agreed: we would create a one-shot magazine that would gather all-new images and words by the best creators," explained Marvel marketing communications manager Bill Rosemann, discussing the genesis of the project. "But this wouldn't be a collection of pin-ups celebrating our brightly clad characters. No, we would instead ask the artists and writers to comment on the theme of Heroes... the brave souls that ran to save those in need... and tragically perished in the process.

"It was the police, firemen, EMS workers and the Red Cross that ran into the danger that others fled from," he added, "and so, we would attempt to give something back by donating the profits that this special generates to the Widows' and Children's Fund of the Police Department, Widows' and Children's Fund of the Fire Department, and the Red Cross."

Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada added, "Artists are also being asked to donate the original art, and we will have an auction as well for these charities. Writers are being asked to contribute a sentence, a paragraph, or what-have-you that is suitable for the moment - inspirational, hopefully."

Asked why a pin-up book rather than a comic, Quesada told **The Manhattan Projects**, "I needed something immediate. Marvel as a company was out there donating blood and money and nothing felt more immediate than that until we came up with the poster book idea."

He describe **Heroes** as "The world's greatest superhero creators honouring the worlds greatest heroes".

Dynamic Forces is working with Marvel Comics on its **Heroes** book to help out the Red Cross, The New York Firemen and The New York Police Department.

The New Jersey-based producer of comics collectables is arranging for copies of the special to be signed by as many of the contributors as possible. Proceeds from the sale of these will be donated to the charities mentioned.

Marvel is also developing a second one-shot, a 32-page anthology.

Titled **A Moment's Silence**, it contains four stories that Quesada says "will be based loosely on the lives of people we knew who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks".

The creative teams working on the special are:

- Joe Quesada (writer) and John Romita Jr (artist)
- Kevin Smith and Igor Kordey
- Bill Jemas and Mark Bagley
- Brian Michael Bendis and Chuck Austen

The currently unscheduled ad-free special is tentatively priced at $3.50.

Emergency Relief

After Marvel's rush-release of

Heroes, there are three specials scheduled for publication in January.

The most ambitious of these is Alternative Press's $14.95 **9-11: Emergency Relief**. A 128-page volume, it is intended to raise funds to benefit the American Red Cross.

The anthology – which features a cover by **Liberty Meadows**' Frank Cho – includes contributions from **The Spirit** creator Will Eisner and a wealth of comics creators and cutting edge cartoonists including Jessica Abel, Guy Davis, Tom Derenick, Dan Fraga, Tom Hart, Dean Haspiel, Danny Hellman, Marc Hempel, Phil Hester, James Kochalka, Mike Manley, Tony Millionaire, Gray Morrow, Scott Morse, Josh Neufeld, Mike Avon Oeming, Neil Vokes, Mark Wheatley and Ashley Wood.

Danny Donovan is putting **9-11** together for Alternative Press. He told **The Manhattan Projects**, "The book will consist of indie creators and mainstream creators telling sequential stories about their personal experiences during the tragedy.

"My story," he continued, "covers the week in 10 pages. Neil Klied's story goes on to talk about what it was like to see the thing from his building, with art by Insight Studios Group, and Dave Lewis' is 24 hours in DC during the attack on America. There will be a story by one of the survivors of the WTC tragedy who escaped the 87th floor unscathed. I personally can't wait to see his story.

"There will be pin-ups from those that are very overworked and want to be a part of the book," continued. "I'm not sure whether we are still accepting submissions at this point as the deadline is October 15th, but any and all interested should look at the site at www.indyworld.com/relief "

Asked to sum up the project in a few words, Donovan responded, "That's difficult, even tougher is to try to get the message out without making it sound like hyperbole, But I would say that it is a mirror of what America is today. That's the truth, everyone mainstream and indie alike came together without a problem, or worry about name recognition or name placement or any of that because this is more than just a comic book, this is a patriotic stand, we were told by our President and the NY Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to get back to work.

"This is what we do," he continued. "We tell stories for a living, we provide a distraction, we can only hope that this doesn't only bring relief to the victims but a sense of peace and closure to those that witnessed it either at ground zero or on their TVs at home."

Also set for a January release is Joseph Michael Linsner's $2.95 **I Love New York**. Announcing his self-published black and white project, the **Dawn** creator said he was raised in Queens, New York, and could see the Twin Towers from his apartment.

"On September 11th, 2001, New York was attacked and those buildings which I had thought of as eternal were destroyed. The unthinkable had happened and I knew that my country would never be the same," he said. "How does one react to such an overwhelming crime against humanity?"

In the one-shot, Linsner offers his personal viewpoint on a tragedy that, as he says, "has affected a nation, a world, and a boy who grew up in New York."

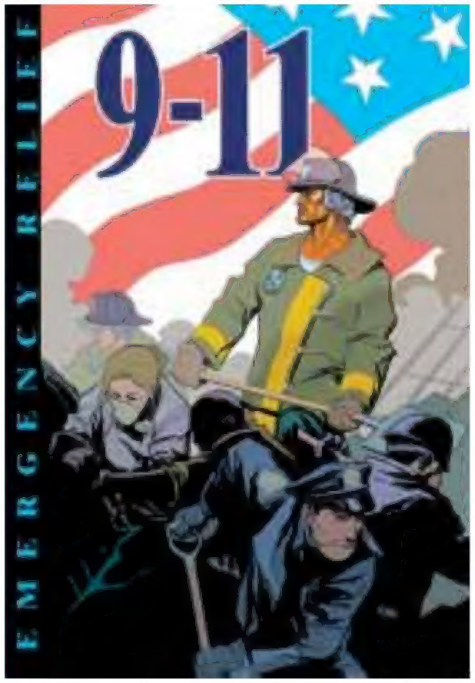
A portion of the proceeds from Linsner's 24-page **I Love New York** will go to the American Red Cross, donated by both the writer/artist and Diamond Distribution.

Marie Croall, sales manager at Chaos! Comics, was quick to propose that the whole comic industry put together a tribute book in memory of the WTC Tragedy - with the theme of New Year's Hope - to be released in January. All proceeds from the books would go to the survivors' families.

As a result of her proposal, a coalition of comic book publishers is banding together to create a graphic novel reflecting on the attack. Dark Horse Comics, Image Comics, Oni Press and Top Shelf Comics have joined forces with Chaos! Comics to create the proposed book.

It will feature positive, one-to-five page stories, pin-ups and comic strips - but will not feature fantasy or superhero stories, focussing instead on a real-world look at the September 11 attack and similar events that have occurred around the world in the past.

A team of Dark Horse editors is working closely with Croall – who is editing the special – and staffers from Wizard, Diamond Comics Distribution, and Quebecor on **September 11**. An anthology, it will feature sequential art short stories



that reflect on the recent terrorist attacks on America.

Among the many creators committed to the project are Will Eisner, Frank Miller, Paul Chadwick, Mike Mignola, Jon Bogdonave, Joe Casey, Sean Phillips, Joe Chiodo, Tommy Lee Edwards, Mark Criley, Dylan Horrocks, Renee French, Davide Fabbri, Tony Millionaire, Dean Motter, Christian Gossett, Joe Quesada, John Ostrander, Joe Sacco, Jamie S. Rich, Chynna Clugston-Major, Bill Stout, Beau Smith, and Jim Valentino.

Editor Dave Land, who is spearheading the special from his Dark Horse office, said: "To me, the most important element of the September 11 project is the sense of community it's inspired. There's a lot to be said for working with such an amazing group of creators, but I'm more affected by the depth of emotion that comes from each of these stories than by the weight of the names attached. People tend to grieve and process loss in their chosen medium, and I can't think of a more poignant form of expression than words and pictures crafted from an individual's personal insight. And in many of these stories, there are very, very few words. Some of the artists still can't find the words to express the depth of what they're feeling, so the images they create are saying it for them. This won't be a light read, but it will do a lot to remind you of the better elements of humanity." With the project still in a state of flux, details as to **September 11**'s page count and cover price have yet to be announced. The anthology is tentatively scheduled for January.

Hanson Press is another publisher developing a black and white fund raiser.

The Minnesota-based newcomer plans for the book – **One Nation Indivisible** – to carry no company logo or publisher's imprint on the cover, and for all profit from sales to be directed to the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, or to any of several charitable organisations that are providing assistance to what Hanson describes as "the many of our citizen neighbours who are directly suffering from the attacks of September 11.

Among those already committed to the project are Terry Beatty, Mort Castle, Rob Davis, Eric Hanson, Tony Isabella, Gordon Purcell, Bill Reinhold, Robin Riggs and Randy Zimmerman.

Discussing **One Nation**, a Hanson spokesperson said, "We are working to iron out the many details of this project, and can only say at this moment that we are committed to making this happen. Please join us in this effort."

Hanson can be contacted at P O Box 511, Marshall, MN 56258 or via-e-mail at *hansonpress@yahoo.com*. The tentative deadline for submissions to the anthology is Friday, October 26.

"The recent tragedy made us here at TidalWave Studios take stock of what is truly important," stated TidalWave president Darren G Davis. "Our hearts are truly broken and we want to in some way give something back to our real superheroes. Our artists have donated their talent and time to create special artwork to be made available to our fans. Every penny from these sales will go to the International Association of Firefighters."

That artwork will be used in **The 10th Muse #6**, shipping from Image on October 3. The issue will feature covers donated by Randy Green (front) and Mike S. Miller (back). It will also contain a two-page section where readers can donate money to the International Association of Firefighters in return for 11"x17" prints of either piece as well as of new works donated by Keron Grant and Mark Brooks. Miller has also provided a second piece.

The original artwork will be auctioned for the Red Cross by Oni and Komikwerks on eBay.

"This is not a marketing effort to sell more books but a tribute to those who lost lives and loved ones. The logos will not appear on the cover. Our only focus is to raise money for this honourable cause," concluded Davis.

As well as organising a signed edition of Marvel's **Heroes** special *[see above]*, Dynamic Forces is also raising funds through the sale of its **Captain America: The 225th Anniversary of Independence** lithograph. Priced $24.99, the 18x24" print is by Dan Jurgens and Jerry Ordway.

All comics creators great and small

IT'S NOT ONLY the major comics companies who are producing benefit books. The small press self-publishers are anxious to do their bit as well.

One such is Simon Morse. A New York resident and contributor to Silver Bullets comics news website *(www.silverbullets.com)*, he told **The Manhattan Projects** that he felt it his duty to help out in whatever way he can. He is putting together a black and white mini-comic [*cover below*] to help out the victims of September 11. A 12-pager, **Search & Rescue** contains a mix of strips and text pieces, including one - said Morse - by local writer Carlos Cubas, who was down at ground zero volunteering as soon as the tragedy made the news.

Morse told **TMP**, "There will be no cover price for this book. I am asking people to pay whatever they want. The company I work for, Random House, has set up a fund. Employee donations to this fund will be matched by Random House. I intend to donate every cent of the sales of this mini-comic to that fund.

"So that means that every dollar a reader gives me instantly becomes two," he added. "This will not be a glossy, high quality comic. It will be what I can produce for as little as possible so that I can afford to donate 100 percent of the sales to the Random House September 11th Fund."

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of **Search & Rescue** can contact Morse at: *aztectoasters@hotmail.com*

Artwork and memorabilia floods in for auctions

WHILE Alternative Press, DC, Marvel et al. have chosen to produce benefit comics, a handful of publishers have elected to organise auctions to raise funds for the various charities and organisations involved in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

Andrew Goletz is using his web-based **Grayhaven Magazine** as the base for an auction of over 250 items donated by various companies.

The entire list of lots is posted at *www.grayhavenmagazine.com*. It includes comics, videos, CDs, original art, toys, statues and busts, books and other such memorabilia.

Grayhaven's auction began on October 1 and runs until October 7.

The following day Oni Press and Komikwerks launch A Vision of Hope: The Heroes Fund auction of original artwork donated by a multitude of creators. Among the many who have contributed lots are: Mike Allred, Mike W Barr, Brian Michael Bendis, Dan Brereton, Chynna Clugston-Major, Guy Davis, Paul Dini, Evan Dorkin, Kevin Eastman, Warren Ellis, Keith Giffen, Tom Grummett and Karl Kesel, Phil Hester, Erik Larsen, Will Meugniot, Danny Miki, Scott Morse, Greg Rucka, Stan Sakai, Shannon Wheeler, Judd Winick and Bernie Wrightson.

A Vision of Hope: The Heroes Fund auction begins on Monday, October 8 on eBay. Further details can be obtained from *www.komikwerks.com*, where some of the artwork is being displayed.

The Artists in The Manhattan Projects

Cover: Mike Deodato Jr (**Heroes**)
Page 2: ditto
Page 3: Tom Palmer (**Heroes**)
Page 4 left: Joe Kubert (**Heroes**)
Page 4 right: Scott Hampton (from *www.cartoonwank.com* and available for use in any benefit book provided all the profits are going to help those killed in the disaster).
Page 5: George Perez (**Heroes**)
Page 6: Joseph Michael Linsner (**I Love New York**)
Page 7 left: Adam Kubert (**Heroes**)
Page 7 right: Larry Stucker (**A Vision of Hope: The Heroes Fund auction**)
Page 8 left: Fred Ray (**DC poster**)
Page 8 right: Bryan Hitch (**The Authority: Widescreen**)
Page 9 left (top): Mike S Miller (**10th Muse**)
Page 9 left (bottom): Randy Green (**10th Muse**)
Page 9 centre: Mike Norton (**September 11**)
Page 9 right: Eric Powell (**September 11**)
Page 10 left: Keron Grant (**10th Muse**)
Page 10 right: Jae Lee (**Heroes**)
Page 11 left (top): Tom Derenick (**9-11: Emergency Relief**)
Page 11 left (bottom): Frank Cho (**9-11: Emergency Relief**)
Page 11 right: John Cassaday (**Heroes**)
Page 12 centre (top): Bernie Wrightson (**A Vision of Hope**)
Page 12 centre (bottom): Gerry Alanguilan (**A Vision of Hope**)
Page 12 right: Kevin Conrad (**A Vision of Hope**)
Page 12 right: Simon Morse (**Search & Rescue**)
Page 13: Dale Keown (**Heroes**)

Comic book universes are populated by colorful characters that possess fantastic powers.

But on September 11th, 2001, an untold number of real men and women amazed the world with their phenomenal acts of bravery.

When others ran away, they charged forward. When others reached out for safety, they offered a helping hand. When others cried out, they responded with a soothing voice.

And, tragically, many of them died... but in doing so taught us all how to live.

They can't stick to walls. They can't summon thunder. They can't fly. They're just Heroes.

Bill Rosemann's text for the back cover of Heroes.

Please give a donation to a relevant charity. There were more victims than just those that died!